

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 31824  
Kiminobu Hirata, et al. : Confirmation Number: 2809  
Application No.: 10/572,573 :  
Filed: November 07, 2006 : Examiner: Edwards, Loren C.  
For: ENGINE EXHAUST EMISSION :  
PURIFICATION APPARATUS :  
:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Some of the references on the attached PTO-1449 were first cited in Office Actions dated February 26, 2008, received in corresponding Japanese Application Nos.: 2004-025754, 2004-

025755 and 2003-282359. A copy of each Office Action is attached for the Examiner's information.

The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 10/556,367, filed January 30, 2006; 10/572,545, filed March 17, 2006; 11/495,643, filed July 31, 2006; 10/572,558, filed March 17, 2006 and 11/495,636, filed July 31, 2006, which are directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of these U.S. Patent Applications are not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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